



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

October 14-20, 2013

Water Soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*)

Member of the Least Wanted

**Origin:** Europe and western Asia

**Also known as:** Water pineapple

**Current Distribution:** One population was found in the Trent River, Ontario. No confirmed sightings in the U.S.

**Means of Introduction:** Likely introduced from the ornamental plant trade, however can be spread by hitching a ride on recreational vehicles.

**Description:** Perennial aquatic plant that has a similar appearance to aloe or spider plants. However, water soldier has sharp serrated leaf edges that can cut swimmers. Reproduces by seed and vegetatively.

**Impacts:** Forms dense mats, crowds out native vegetation, hinders recreational activities.

**Habitat:** Ponds, lakes, rivers



Photo: Aquascaping World



Photos: Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program



Photo: Jouko Lehmuskallio

For more information on location and identification, go to Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program's website: [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)

Michigan AIS program information:

[www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives](http://www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives)

